

OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN is at 215 North Street, between Pennsylvania Avenue and D Street, (Up Stairs).

MISSOURI.

The resolutions proposed by the President in March last, to Congress, and adopted by that body, with the clear and undoubted concurrence of the country, pledge the public faith to assist such States as may abolish slavery before the close of this year, by an extent of pecuniary aid which shall be an indemnity for the public and private inconveniences which the abolition of slavery may involve. This pledge of the public faith must be redeemed. It is obligatory upon everybody, and especially upon those who, like ourselves, supported the resolutions referred to.

Of the constitutional power of Congress to redeem this pledge, there can be no fair question. The abolition of slavery before the war close, and as a measure closing the war, is clearly within the war power. It is a measure certainly adapted to the end of weakening the rebellion and securing peace, because no State which has rid itself of slavery will be in any danger of lapsing or relapsing into a political connection with our enemies, who are seeking to found an empire of which slavery is the corner stone.

According to present appearances, Missouri is the only State which will avail itself of the offer made in March last by the President and Congress.

The late election in that State was carried by the friends of the policy of emancipation, and it was undoubtedly very much helped to be so carried by the national offer of pecuniary assistance in the work of getting rid of an odious and injurious institution.

It is now said by the leading men of the party of freedom successful in Missouri that they will be able to consummate their work by the aid of an appropriation, to be paid over without further legislation, upon the condition that on an early day, say the 1st of January, 1863, Missouri shall have entirely abolished slavery. The sum named as sufficient to secure the object is ten millions of dollars.

This is far short of the pecuniary value to the nation of accomplishing the object, although we believe that it exceeds the present or any possible future pecuniary value of the slaves of loyal persons in Missouri. If the appropriation is likely to accomplish the object, and is necessary to accomplish it, we trust it will be made.

In making the appropriation we presume that Congress will adhere to the letter and spirit of the resolutions of last March. No question of compensating slave owners need be raised here at all. The money should be paid over to Missouri, to be disposed of as that State sees fit, and we may rely upon it that the friends of emancipation who are in the majority in the Legislature of Missouri, will know how to dispose of the fund in the best possible manner, to conciliate the interests which must be conciliated in order to carry out their policy.

THE WEST.

Under the head of "The Northwest and the War," the Fulton Democrat, a paper published at Lewiston, in the county of Fulton, and State of Illinois, indulges itself in the following treacherous outbreak:

"New England forced this unholy war upon the country, and to-day New England manages the war, dictating to the President every step he takes toward the overthrow of the free institutions of the Government. While New England is being enriched by the war, the Northwest is being reduced by it to beggary. While New England manufacturers were never before in so flourishing a condition, the farmers of the Northwest can scarcely get first cost for the produce, because they have no outlet for the produce except through the railways owned and managed by New England abolitionists, at a cost for shipping that overshadows the worth of the produce. New England managed the greatest war that has just gone into operation—managed it so that the Northwest has by far the greatest proportion to pay."

While New England is naturally opposed to the Northwestern States in religion, politics and trade, the Mississippi States are our natural allies in the Government. While New England is in harmony, and the immense trade that until the commencement of the war existed between the Northern and Southern States in the Mississippi Valley was still profitable to both sections. In no event can the war do us of the West any good. It continually sacrifices our best interests. How long will our people continue blind to these awful truths? How long will the people wait before they declare what should have been uttered in thunder tones a year ago, "this unnatural, unnecessary, unconstitutional, diabolical, abolition war must cease!"

This is much in the style of the harangues made in Congress by Mr. Cox, of Ohio, and others of that school, in the hope of detaching a portion of the country into an alliance with the enemies.

The wheat, corn, flour, pork, and cattle of the West reach their markets, to-day, just as nine tenths of those articles did before this war commenced; that is to say, over "abolition" canals and railroads, and if the Mississippi is blocked up, it is not by "abolitionists," but by rebels.

How it happens that New England is "naturally opposed" to States largely peopled from her own loins, is not stated. New England certainly manifested this opposition, in a very unnatural way, by voting for the West a Pacific railroad and a homestead act, which the old Southern rulers of the country had constantly defied.

Mr. Madison said, in the convention which framed the Constitution of the United States, that the "varying States" might always be relied on to favor the growth of the Northwest, because the greater the interior production of the country the more commerce, and the more business for ships. This "natural opposition" in "trade," between New England and her best customers, did not occur to Mr. Madison, but remained to be discovered by the editor of the Fulton Democrat.

THE NEW SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—It is currently reported in official circles that the President has determined to nominate Judge Usher, of Indiana, as successor to Hon. Caleb B. Smith, the present Secretary of the Interior. Judge Usher combines in an eminent degree all the qualities necessary to a successful discharge of the varied and important duties of this high office, and is to be regarded as one of the ablest men in the Government by the war, his knowledge of the routine is sufficient to make him the master, instead of the tool, of his subordinates. Indeed, it is not improbable that the selection of Judge Usher, upon the ground, among others, of his familiarity with the duties of the place, may relieve the President from the disagreeable duty of arbitrating upon the political pretensions of his friends.

It is hardly necessary to add, that Judge Usher is sound upon all the great questions connected with the war.

CORRIG: is reaching the North by the way of Cairo. Fourteen thousand bales have arrived there within a month.

BANKRUPT LAW.

To the honor of this Congress let it be said, that they have joined among the laws of the nation this act, which will bind the Union together more than any other in its history.

The want of it has deprived the nation of commercial stability; making parties every few years, like tornadoes, sweeping devastation and distress over the land. It is the same regulator in business that got it to the currency, and without it there is constant fluctuation. With the power to give up all and have the benefit of release from new exertion, those overtaken by misfortune will yield at once, while a fair dividend can be declared, and the struggle and entanglements around them, and by concealment to drag along till hundreds are involved in the ruin that might have been avoided.

It will strengthen and purify the business of the whole country, and it is fortunate that so able a bill has been prepared, and that the representatives of the people are awake to the necessity of its immediate passage. The Government needs the increased labor and energy that it will, as if by magic, start into life.

The agricultural, manufacturing and other interests of the great interior, will have more confidence in the merchant and those employed to send forward the immense productions of the land, when a healthy tone is given, and the lame and diseased have been removed; and by this law honesty and not deception has been encouraged, and in the first stages of insolvency the involuntary, which is the main advantage of the bill and most valuable of its clauses, enables those interested to compel a distribution. It was wise, indeed, in the framers of the Constitution to single this measure out as one of the few powers conferred upon Congress; and when once enacted, the miserable and conflicting assignment laws of nearly all the States will be superseded, and the people of each section, in dealing with the other, will have the satisfaction of knowing the measures that govern all, like the tariff and post office laws, operating alike all over the country.

No dishonesty can be countenanced under it. The withholding of any property beyond what the act allows, disannuls all proceedings, and no matter with what skill, the slightest taint of fraud places all that a bankrupt has in the reach of his creditors. Liberty and humanity to the unfortunate and despairing are sufficient of themselves, under the genius of our institutions, to give them liberty. But when such noble impulses are linked with the demands of public policy and good government, there ought to be no hesitation, no delay.

The time could never again be more auspicious for inaugurating this great measure, and thousands who condemned the hasty legislation of the previous law, are now urging the adoption of this as one of the most valuable enactments the parent Government can make, and the people will cheerfully respond to her calls for men and money when she shows regard for the wounded and unfortunate.

THE CLAIMS OF AGRICULTURE.

Elsewhere we print from a contemporary an article touching the new Department of Agriculture, established under an act passed at the last session of the present Congress.

Such a Department has long been projected. President Taylor urged it; and it was thus recommended by our present Chief Magistrate, in his first message:

"Agriculture, confessedly the largest interest of the nation, has not a department nor a bureau, but a clerkship only, assigned to it by the Government. While it is fortunate that this great interest is so independent in its nature as to not have demanded and extorted more from the Government, I respectfully ask Congress to consider whether something more cannot be given voluntarily with general advantage."

"Annual reports exhibiting the condition of our agriculture, commerce, and manufactures, would present a fund of information of great practical value to the country. While I make no suggestion as to details, I venture the opinion that an agricultural and statistical bureau might profitably be organized."

It cannot be denied that while law-makers have spoken very pleasant and truthful words about farming and its interests, they have done very little for those interests.

Hitherto, agriculture has received the recognition and support of our Government only through a division or bureau of the Patent Office, which has been tolerated rather than fostered. The appropriations have been of a very limited character, and wholly insufficient to a proper regard for the claims of the interest in which the greater portion of the capital of the country is invested.

The establishment of a distinct department of agriculture is a step in the right direction. It has been hailed with satisfaction by all who, for profit or pleasure, cultivate the soil. It is an evidence that, at last, the Government is aroused to the importance of the art which has, from the beginning, been the main reliance of the people. Great advantages may result from such a department. If it shall encourage thorough cultivation, an accurate knowledge of soils, a judicious selection of seeds, a study of the science of agriculture in its thousand phases, and lead to the production of two ears of corn where one is now grown, it will abundantly repay all the support the Government may give to it.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?—Recent advices from the Southwest inform us that Gen. Hovey and Gen. Sherman, who are generally understood to have been co-operating with Gen. Grant in his advance, have fallen back respectively upon Helena in Arkansas, and upon Memphis.

What is the meaning of these movements? Is there a military dead-lock on the banks of the Mississippi as well as on the banks of the Potomac?

The National Intelligencer of yesterday renews its denunciations of the policy of withdrawing Gen. McClellan from the Peninsula, and adds:

"It will be hard to convince posterity that so much of hazard, and, as it now appears, so much of assured misfortune, need to have been entailed on the Republic if wise counsels had prevailed over our military delusions."

THE LATE BATTLE NEAR FREDERICKSBURG.—It will be seen from the Congressional proceedings, that the Senate yesterday unanimously adopted a resolution to inquire into the disasters of the battle near Fredericksburg.

The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, with commendable promptness, left Washington last night, in a special steamer, with a view of at once entering upon their important duties. The public will, of course, be interested in the result.

A BANKRUPT LAW.—The speech delivered in the Senate yesterday, by Mr. Foster, in explanation and support of the pending bankruptcy bill, is said to have been a most able and statesmanlike effort. Mr. Foster speaks but seldom, but always ably.

MR. H. P. WHITE, Esq., of Va., and J. F. Mackenzie, of Pa., clerks in the Paymaster General's office, have been promoted from second to third-class places; salaries, \$1,600 per annum.

EDITORIAL SUMMARY.

It would appear from recent advices that both the English and French Governments are considering all the aid in their power to the Irish rebels. Nothing better could be expected of the treacherous people and Government of England, but we do hope that the French Government, which is a French, and a check, this perfidious Government, with its aristocracy, only mean by their professions of neutrality, to keep the word of promise to the ear, and break it to the hope."

IT NOW SEEMS about settled that Mr. Wade, U. S. Senator from Ohio, is to be his own successor. This is right. Some twelve or fifteen members who voted against Mr. Wade last year will now vote for him. The loss of such a man from the Senate at such a time as this would be a national calamity.

THE PRIVATE ALABAMA has already destroyed or "bonded" over thirty of our merchant vessels, and she is still at large to destroy more. The New York Express, and other kindred sheets that denounced us with such characteristic vehemence, because we opposed the forward movement of our army upon Fredericksburg, on its way to Richmond, now have the effrontery to turn round and denounce the Government for doing the thing for which they so loudly and so pertinaciously clamored. Hear one of these "on to Richmond" advocates, who would not be quiet till the army moved. He says:

"WHO DID THIS SLAUGHTER?—The public mind is deeply exercised over the Rappahannock news,—never more so, since the war, upon any one disastrous day,—and the indignation is nearly universal. Gen. Burnside, it now seems, put his army, as it were, into the pit of a slaughter, (the Fredericksburg valley), and there, on the hills encircling Fredericksburg, the boxes opened, and shell, grape and canister upon the pit, and then followed, not battle, but slaughter. The soldiers were murdered, not in the phrase of war, 'killed.' They were laid to slaughter, not to fight. The great question is—*who did it?* Burnside? No, we are told, emphatically 'No,' though Burnside is seemingly responsible."—N. Y. Express.

The Express declares "that Burnside obeyed strict orders." Did not this *senient* editor know as well before Burnside's army moved as now, that he, and they were going into this pit? Or has he just come to learn the geography of that country? However the Government may be to blame for this "slaughter," the clamorous newspaper press who "bonded" our brave army, on cannot escape by adopting the silly cry of "stop thief."

We can say to the slaughtered thousands, "Shake not your gory locks at [us]. Ye cannot say [us] did it!"

A BALTIMORE PAPER gives currency to the foolish story that General McClellan has been summoned to Washington to take command of the army. The truth is, General McClellan said to a friend in New York that he was to be in Washington to-day, and this was enough to give rise to this story at this critical time.

General McClellan comes here to give testimony to the Porter trial.

P. S. Since the above was in type, we learn that General McClellan will not reach this city quite as early as anticipated.

The examination of the witnesses, on the part of the Government, will not probably be concluded for a day or two; and, as General McClellan is to be called by General Porter, there will be no occasion for his immediate presence.

WE WOULD CALL THE ATTENTION OF THE reader to a communication on our first page, from a highly respectable gentleman of this city, on "objection of the projected 'raid upon Cuba.'"

A PRIVATE, by the name of Lunt, has been shot at Hilton Head for desertion, and for attempting to betray his comrades into the hands of the enemy. He belonged to the Maine Ninth.

IT IS SAID that the diplomatic correspondence, if all published, will make two volumes of a thousand pages each. One volume of nearly that size has already been published.

THERE SEEMS to be a very malignant quarrel going on between the Tribune and the Albany Evening Journal, in which Mr. Greeley and Mr. Weed are venting their private grievances with one another. In the light of what is developed, it is easy to see why the Republicans lost New York.

THE GRAND JURY of Milwaukee county, Wisconsin, are down on shipmasters. They have instructed the district attorney to present to them for indictment at their next term, all persons who are engaged in issuing or circulating shipmasters, of any character.

THE Intelligencer of yesterday has a very elaborate article headed "The Military Dead-LOCK." We cannot say that we are prepared to accept all of our neighbor's conclusions, but the article is written with great candor and marked decided ability.

IT NOW SEEMS that General Banks's expedition is to operate in the Gulf, so we suppose so far as the destination is now concerned, speculation is at an end.

Government has been again imposed upon by those who furnished the transports; several of them are leaky, old craft, not fit for sea, and had they gone to the bottom with their human freight there would have been no remedy.

When will miserable sharpers cease to defraud the Government, and to put in jeopardy human life!

RUMORS were plenty on the street last evening, that General Halleck was removed, and that Messrs. Stanton and Seward had resigned.

HON. ALFRED ELY, of New York, is charged with receiving fees for procuring commissions in the army, and in one case charging as high as \$400 for his services.

MR. SCHENCK has been designated as the successor to Major General Wool, lately relieved from the command of the Military Department of Maryland.

NAVAL ORDERS.—Lieutenant Commander Milton Hixson has been ordered to the command of the "Kines," in the western Gulf blockading squadron.

THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS, Third Session.

THURSDAY, Dec. 18. SENATE. Mr. COWAN presented a petition asking for the passage of a bill to amend an act of Congress, approved March 3, 1855, relating to the duties on crude oil imported from other countries.

Mr. LANE, of Indiana, introduced a bill to amend an act of Congress, approved March 3, 1855, relating to the duties on crude oil imported from other countries.

Mr. RICE introduced a bill to extend the Walls-Walls and Fort Benton military road to Fort Union.

Mr. NESMITH introduced a bill to provide for the protection of overland emigrants to the States and Territories of the Pacific. Referred.

Mr. CARLISLE introduced a bill to provide for the appointment of commissioners to examine and decide upon the military claims, originating during the present rebellion in the State of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge, prior to Sept. 30, 1862. Referred.

Mr. WILKINSON offered a resolution that the Committee on the Conduct of the War be directed to inquire into the facts relative to the recent battle at Fredericksburg, Va., and particularly as to what officers or officers are responsible for the assault which was made upon the enemy's works, and also for the delay which occurred in preparing to meet the enemy.

Mr. McDUGALL suggested that the resolution be amended, so as to direct the committee to report the result of their investigations to the Senate.

This amendment was accepted, and the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, of Massachusetts, the bill to facilitate the discharge of soldiers from the army, and the inspection of convalescent camps and hospitals, was taken up.

Mr. HALE moved to amend the first section, which provides for the appointment of a medical inspector general and eight medical inspectors, by striking out that part which allows their selection from the medical corps of the army or surgeons in the volunteer service; which was agreed to.

Mr. FOSTER moved to strike out the words, "under such regulations as may be hereafter established," in order that these men might be discharged at once, and not be subjected to the great difficulty in getting disabled men discharged from these hospitals: it took months to get a disabled man out.

Several Senators addressed the Senate upon this bill.

The bill was passed.

A message was received from the President, transmitting a dispatch from Mr. Adams, United States Minister at London, with a correspondence with the principal librarian of the British Museum, in regard to certain valuable publications presented to the Congressional library.

Mr. GRIMES introduced a bill in relation to the bounty of volunteer soldiers in certain cases. Referred.

Mr. SUMNER offered a resolution requesting the President to communicate with the public interest, to communicate to the Senate any information he may have in his possession, showing why Gen. Saxton was removed from his command at Hilton Head, the question being made the resolution was laid over.

On motion of Mr. WILSON, of Mass., the bill to improve the organization of the cavalry forces, was taken up, and then taken up, and Mr. FOSTER proceeded to address the Senate in favor of its passage. He argued the urgent necessity of an act of this character, and referred to the fact that since the 1st of January, 1862, he had been in England and France, and had been considered beneficial in those countries. In this country, we have had but one general battle named, and that was at Fredericksburg, which continued until December 19, 1862, and continued in force for only thirteen months; under that time, we have had 1,500,000 men sent into an indebtedness of the large sum of \$440,000,000, out of which but a very small dividend was made. He contended that the operation of this bill would be salutary and calculated to do no injury to the creditors, and quoted from Justice Story and others, in support of this opinion.

Mr. GRIMES offered a resolution directing the Secretary of War to inform the Senate, of whom the transport vessels Thetis and Niagara, and the schooner Nymph were chartered for the Banks expedition, and by what agent or agents, and at what price and for what period of time, and also to report to the Senate what officers or agents examined the said vessels as to their sea and sailing qualities, and the condition of the same.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Commissioner of Agriculture in answer to a resolution of the House of the 5th December, with regard to the expenditure of the agricultural fund. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. TRAIN moved that a select committee of five be appointed to inquire whether any officer or employee of any department of the Government, or any individual directly or indirectly in any banking house or corporation having contracts with the Government, or dealing in stock or other property, and that the committee be authorized to call for persons and papers.

SYNOPSIS OF WHOLE SPEECHES WE SHALL PRINT IN tomorrow's Appendix.

The committee on the House adjourned.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF THE UNITED STATES, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18. The House met at 10 o'clock according to adjournment.

Col. Myers, Chief Quartermaster of the Department of the Army, was sworn. His testimony related to the status of property of both loyal and disloyal owners, in order to satisfy the immediate wants of the troops, which could not otherwise have been supplied.

As to whether certificates of compensation had been properly or improperly furnished for such services, he could not certainly say, the book containing that information having been lost in the attack at Catlett's station, though he knew of one instance wherein a loyal citizen had been suitably indemnified.

He further stated that a quantity of goods, marked "C. S. A.," had been taken from the possession of Mr. Feig Clarke, but that no certificate was either given by him or required. He had no personal acquaintance with Mr. C., nor did he desire any.

After a few moments' secret session, the court then received a series of letters from Gen. McDowell, referring to his conduct in the campaign of the Shenandoah, many of which were read, and the remainder deferred to another day.

The court adjourned till to-day at 11 o'clock, a. m.

COURT MARTIAL OF GEN. PORTER.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18. The court met at 11 o'clock. Lieutenant Colonel Fred. Myers and Major S. F. Barrett were the only witnesses examined. Their testimony was brief, and had reference merely to the character of the night of the 27th of August.

The court adjourned until this morning.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE N. Y. TRIBUNE.

Our Special Correspondent, General Totten, has just received a dispatch from the Secretary of War, dated Dec. 18, 8 a. m., in which he has been informed that the Secretary of War has ordered the removal of the Rappahannock, and Butterfield's forces are now crossing the river.

The movement was cautiously and skillfully executed during the night, and is regarded throughout the army as the best step yet taken under the circumstances.

General Sigel, with his entire command, has arrived.

The estimates of our losses in the late battle were widely. The following, based upon official reports, as far as made out, and upon the estimates of those who have the best facilities for judging, is the nearest correct as can be obtained up to this time:

RIGHT GRAND DIVISION (SUMNER).	
Howard's Division	500
Meade's Division	3,500
French's Division	6,000
Ninth Corps (Wheeler's).	
Stearns's Division	925
Getty's Division	1,325
Total	
Right Grand Division (Sumner's)	7,500
Fifth Corps (Butterfield's).	
Humphrey's Division	1,500
Griffin's Division	1,800
Sykes's (Sunday)	150
Total	
Fifth Corps (Butterfield's)	3,500
LEFT GRAND DIVISION (FRANKLIN).	
First Corps (Reynolds's).	1,000
Gibson's Division	1,000
Meade's Division	1,000
Doublay's Division	150
Total	
Left Grand Division (Franklin's)	3,500
Sixth Corps Smith's	300
Second Right Grand Division	7,500
Total Left Grand Division	2,500
Total Left Grand Division	2,000
Total	
Left Grand Division (Franklin's)	12,500

It is believed that these figures will fall under rather than exceed the official reports. The severity of the battle may be inferred from the fact that while Butterfield was engaged, half an hour he lost nearly three thousand men.

Gen. Hancock lost 40 officers killed and 100 wounded. His total loss embraces fifty per cent of his entire division. His conduct, that of his officers and his troops, was of the highest order, and he was highly commended; but where all did so well, it is perhaps needless to individualize.

Though Hooker was originally opposed to crossing at this point, he was afterwards prevailed upon to do so, and he is generally spoken of as the hero of the battle.

The reports that Col. Crook, of the Fifth New Jersey, was mortally wounded, were untrue. He is doing well, and will recover. Though this is the tenth wound he has received during the war, he says the rebels will have a short time to rest before they kill him. He is now in the hands of the Government, and is being treated with the utmost care.

LATEST BY TELEGRAPH.

FROM PHILADELPHIA. The rebels send a flag of truce, requesting our people to bury the dead.

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OFFICIAL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, Washington, January 25, 1863.

The Secretary of State will receive members of Congress on business on Saturdays, commencing with Saturday, the 2nd of next month.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington, Dec. 16, 1862.